

Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits



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To the HNVF Committee
From The Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits
Re: HNVF Special Meeting Agenda Item D-2009-10 Recommendations

The Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits supports the Mayor's Budget Message that directs " the HNVF Committee to consider alternative funding appropriations to the City Council and to encourage increased community involvement in the process".

The Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits (SVCN) is keenly aware that the economic downturn has significantly impacted fundraising in our community. At the same time we are seeing unprecedented client needs, increase in case loads and longer wait times for services. The HNVF fund has been an important community funding resource that maximizes services to the City of San Jose. The \$6 million base HNVF allocation leveraged \$26 million last year resulting in \$32 million in services to the City of San Jose. SVCN believes that the flexibility and vitality of HNVF should be continued, but not at the risk of severely cutting programs that have applied in the 2009-10 funding round.

The City of San Jose HNVF set new priorities, new funding criteria, and new program standards consistent with the RBA model planned by the community for 2009-10. The HNVF staff provided extensive outreach, design meetings and planning discussions that lasted over a year with invited community partners and the nonprofits within the HNVF network.

SVCN supports a tiered approach for Youth and Senior fund allocations based on program scores and a percentage of the requested amount. Creating a tiered allocation recommendation for the Healthy Neighborhood Venture Fund (HNVF) allows for the funding to be allocated to a greater number of services to seniors and youth. This would provide the greatest benefit to our community. However, SVCN could not support greater than 25% on the requested amount in 2009-10. The tiered allocation plan which recognizes scoring as a criteria for a tiered approach developed by staff for the HNVF Committee seems to be a fair method. We support this tiered allocation plan.

SVCN realizes that many programs and services are experiencing enormous reductions. Severe cuts are drastically reducing client services and forcing staff layoffs and the closure of entire programs. It is a grey day in our community. We must search to find new solutions, re-shape California government and seek new revenue and fee streams that support our whole community. These may be the worst of times and SVCN is greatly troubled that funding is not sufficient to fund all the worthy programs our community needs.